(c) if so, the details thereof, and by when the telephone connections would be alloted to them; and

(d) the reasons for delay and what action has been taken by Government/ being taken so that they get the telephone connections easily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Twenty five (25) persons have applied for telephones at village Habibpur/Habibpur Darin, District Gautam Budh Nagar (NOIDA) during the last two years.

(b) to (d) 13 telephone have already been provided. Cable laying work is in progress and remaining 12 telephones (mostly applied during 1998) are expected to be provided within the next two months.

Withdrawal of Preferential Offer to Tatas by ACC

2213. SHRI JANARDKHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to opposition by the Financial Institutions ACC has withdrawn preferential offer to Tatas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether shareholders of ACC have opposed such a move and condemned IDBI in this regard; if so, the reasons advanced by shareholders in this regard; and

(d) what is Government's reaction thereto?;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (d) Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that ACC had proposed making a rights issue of Rs. 189 crore and preferential issue of naked warrants aggregating Rs. 99 crore to Tatas. Institutions had advised the company to arise the entire amount through rights issue, if necessary, so that there was no discrimination against any shareholders. The proposal pertaining to preferential allotment of warrants to Tatas was withdrawn at the extra ordinary General Meeting (EGM).

Pensionary Terminal Benefits Instrumentalities of Government

2214. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a policy of Government not to extend pensionary terminal benefits to Instrumentalities of Government of India;

(b) if so, the reasons and justification thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons; for not accepting extension of these benefits to the teachers of Navodaya Vidyalayas?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) Regular pensionary benefits are costlier than the Contributory Provident Fund Scheme which generally exists in organisations which receive grants-in-aid from the Central Government. Payment of pension is a recurring liability as compared to the one-time settlement under the Constributory providedat Fund Scheme. For these reasons Government are not generally in favour of extension of pensionary to autonomous organisations, etc. However such organisations can introduce suitable annuity schemes for their employees.